DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 331 906 UD 027 852

TITLE Directory of Puerto Rican Elected Officials in the United States.
INSTITUTION National Puerto Rican Coalition, Washington, DC.
PUB DATE Dec 89
NOTE 41p.
PUB TYPE Reference Materials - Directories/Catalogs (132)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Boards of Education; City Officials; *Community Leaders; County Officials; *Individual Characteristics; Legislators; *Public Officials; *Puerto Ricans; State Officials

ABSTRACT

This directory of Puerto Rican elected officials in the United States is intended to serve as a benchmark of Puerto Rican political participation and to encourage community leaders to run for public office. The survey conducted for this directory identified 123 elected officials in 11 states with Puerto Rican populations of 10,000 or more. Compared with the total population and with other Hispanic American groups, Puerto Ricans are underrepresented among officeholders. The highest number of officeholders is found at the school board and the municipal level, reflecting the urban character of the Puerto Rican community. One-third of the officeholders are female. The age distribution of the officeholders is comparable to that of the Puerto Rican community. Seventy-eight percent are members of the Democratic Party. The following states are included: (1) California; (2) Connecticut; (3) Florida; (4) Illinois; (5) Indiana; (6) Massachusetts; (7) Michigan; (8) New Jersey; (9) New York; (10) Ohio; and (11) Pennsylvania. The directory is organized by state and by the following levels of office: (1) Federal representatives; (2) state officials; (3) county officials; (4) municipal officials; (5) judicial/law enforcement officials; and (6) education/school board members. School board members are organized alphabetically by district name in ascending order by district number and alphabetically by incumbent's last name. Population figures are based on the 1980 Census. One table of statistical data is included. An explanation of the methodology used to compile the directory and a list of eight references are appended. (FMW)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED331906

Directory of Puerto Rican Elected Officials In the United States

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Ramon E. Davila

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

UD 027 852

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

National Puerto Rican Coalition

The National Puerto Rican Coalition, Inc.

The National Puerto Rican Coalition, Inc., (NPRC) was founded in 1977 to further the social, economic, and political well-being of Puerto Ricans throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Based in Washington, D.C., NPRC is a nonprofit, tax-exempt association providing a presence and voice at the national level for all Puerto Ricans.

As a membership association, NPRC has access to grassroots views of Puerto Rican needs, problems, and aspirations. NPRC conveys these views to decision makers through its contacts with the media, leading institutions, and individuals in the public and private sectors.

To further its mission NPRC has developed programs in three broad areas. Programs in advocacy, research, and policy analysis are carried out primarily in Washington, D.C. Programs to enhance the image of Puerto Ricans in the United States, such as the NPRC Life Achievement Awards, are carried out nationally. Partnership projects in community economic development are carried out locally.

All programs are designed with the goal of affecting national policies as they impact the Puerto Rican community.

Directory of Puerto Rican Elected Officials In the United States

National Puerto Rican Coalition, Inc.
1700 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 223-3915

December 1989

Acknowledgments

Many people contributed to the preparation of this *Directory*. Although it is not possible to mention all of them individually by name NPRC herewith recognizes their assistance. NPRC, however, wishes to express its appreciation to Jose E. Cruz who conceived and directed this project and wrote the research note, and to Cecilia A. Bras who compiled and verified the data.

Dedication
María C. Sánchez
1926-1989

Shortly before the completion of this *Directory*, NPRC learned of the sudden death of State Representative Maria C. Sanchez, a long-standing Puerto Rican community activist and political leader from Hartford, Connecticut. Doña Maria was considered the godmother of Hartford's Puerto Rican community and was known for her commitment to the advancement of Puerto Ricans and other Hispanics in the city.

In 1973 she became the first Puerto Rican to be elected to the Hartford School Board and in 1988 she was one of the first Puerto Ricans to become a state representative after winning a General Assembly seat for Hartford's 6th District.

All who knew Doña Maria found hers to be an unassuming, gentle demeanor combined with hard-nosed political ability and unyielding tenacity. Her strongest commitment was to education and she is credited with helping establish the city's first bilingual education program.

NPRC dedicates this *Directory* to her memory.

Table of Contents

Foreword iv
Guide for Users v
States
California 1
Connecticut 1
Florida 4
Illinois 4
Indiana 6
Massachusetts 7
Michigan 8
New Jersey 8
New York 12
Ohio 20
Pennsylvania 21
Research Note: Puerto Rican Elected Officials in the United States 23
Methodology 28
References 29

Foreword

In 1983, the National Puerto Rican Coalition, Inc., (NPRC) conducted a seminar which led to the publication of a report entitled *Strategies for Increasing Voter Participation in Puerto Rican Communities in the Continental United States.* From these activities emerged the Puerto Rican Hispanic Voter Registration Project, the first national organization in our community dedicated to increasing political participation.

This *Directory* represents another step in NPRC's continuing commitment to this area. The economic, social, and political advancement of the Puerto Rican community are issues which form the very basis of NPRC's ongoing programs. Greater involvement in the political process has historically been a path of advancement for many groups, specifically running for office and being elected. This *Directory* can serve as a benchmark for measuring where the community is today and should encourage community leaders to pursue election to public office with determination and vigor.

Louis Nuñez
President

Guide for Users

This directory is organized in alphabetical order by state and level of office as follows:

- federal representatives
- state officials
- county officials
- municipal officials
- judicial/law enforcement officials
- education/school board members

School board members are organized alphabetically by district name in ascending order by district number and alphabetically by incumbent's last name.

Abbreviations used for political affiliation are as follows:

DEM	Democrat
GOP	Republican
IND	Independent
*	No party affiliation indicated

Although provided by respondents, party affiliation for school board members is not included in order to highlight the nonpartisan character of those positions.

Other abbreviations:

SD	School District
BOE	Board of Education
SB	School Board

The date at the end of each reference indicates the date of expiration of the official's term.

Population figures are based on the 1980 census and data assembled by the Office of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Hispanic Policy Development Project. NPRC is aware that much population change has occurred since 1980. The decision to use the available census data was prompted by the inconsistencies and gaps of more recent estimates available from other sources.

Guide (continued)

Please let us know if any additions, deletions or corrections are needed by filling out this form and sending it to:

National Puerto Rican Coalition, Inc.
Directory of Puerto Rican Elected Officials
1700 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20006

Please ☐ delete ☐ add ☐ correct

Name _____

Level of Government _____

Official Title _____

Address _____

_____

Phone Number _____

Date First Elected _____

Current Term Expires _____

Party Affiliation _____

Reason for Change _____

CALIFORNIA

Total Population:	23,668,000
Total Hispanic Population:	4,544,331
Total Puerto Rican Population:	93,038
Cities with 10,000 or more Puerto Ricans:	
Los Angeles:	13,885

School Board Members

Fred Ariel Rodriguez
San Francisco BOE
505 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA 94111-2514
(415) 986-4200, ext. 4139
01/31/93

CONNECTICUT

Total Population:	3,108,000
Total Hispanic Population:	124,499
Total Puerto Rican Population:	88,361
Cities with 10,000 or more Puerto Ricans:	
Bridgeport	22,146
Hartford	24,615

State Officials

Juan A. Figueroa
State Representative
248 Putnam Street
Hartford, CT 06106
(203) 240-8500
DEM 11/07/90

Americo L. Santiago
State Representative
130th District
114 Lee Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605
(203) 240-8596
DEM 11/07/90

Municipal Officials

Bridgeport

Lydia Martinez
Alderwoman, District 137
95 Bell Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610
(203) 576-6597
DEM 11/30/91

Hector Vasquez
Alderman, District 136
80 Soundview Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606
(203) 374-5556
GOP 11/11/91

Hartford

Eugenio Caro, Sr.
Councilman
550 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103
(203) 722-6590
IND 12/30/91

Frances Sanchez
Councilwoman
232 Campfield Avenue
Hartford, CT 06114
(203) 527-9760
DEM 12/30/91

New Britain

Peter M. Rosa
Councilmember
154 Lewis Road
New Britain, CT 06053
(203) 827-7399
DEM 11/30/91

New Haven

Tomas Reyes, Jr.
President, Board of Aldermen
56 Redfield Street
New Haven, CT 06519
(203) 789-7412
DEM 12/31/91

Judicial/Law Enforcement

Manuel Ayala
City Sheriff
60 Gilmore Street, Unit 1
Bridgeport, CT 06608
(203) 367-4314
DEM 11/30/91

Domingo Robles
City Sheriff
740 Iranisten Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605
(203) 368-1830
DEM 11/30/91

School Board Members

Susan Lafitte
Bridgeport BOE
664 Silvan Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606
(203) 371-5173
12/31/91

Carmen Rodriguez
Hartford BOE
20 Mountford Street
Hartford, CT 06114
(203) 275-8487
11/30/93

Wilson Gonzalez
School Board Member
705 Arch Street
New Britain, CT 06051
(203) 566-2800
12/31/93

Miguel Rodriguez
New Haven BOE
109 Church Street, #306
New Haven, CT 06510
(203) 787-8795
09/30/91

FLORIDA

Total Population:	9,746,000
Total Hispanic Population:	858,158
Total Puerto Rican Population:	94,775
Cities with 10,000 or more Puerto Ricans:	
Miami:	44,656

Municipal Officials

Orlando

Mary I. Johnson
City Commissioner
400 S. Orange Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801
(407) 849-2382
DEM 10/31/92

Sweetwater

Carmen M. Menendez
Councilwoman
500 S.W. 109th Avenue
Sweetwater, FL 33174
(305) 221-0411
DEM 05/30/93

ILLINOIS

Total Population:	11,427,000
Total Hispanic Population:	635,602
Total Puerto Rican Population:	129,165
Cities with 10,000 or more Puerto Ricans:	
Chicago:	112,074

State Officials

Miguel Del Valle
State Senator
3507 W. North Avenue
Chicago, IL 60647
(312) 292-0202
DEM 11/30/90

Miguel A. Santiago
State Representative
9th District
1314 N. Pulaski Road
Chicago, IL 60651
(312) 486-6488
DEM 01/31/90

County Officials

Cook County

Joseph Berrios
Commissioner, Board of Appeals
1314 N. Pulaski Road
Chicago, IL 60651
(312) 443-5560
DEM 12/31/90

Municipal Officials

Chicago

Raymond Figueroa
Alderman
3506 W. North Avenue
Chicago, IL 60647
(312) 342-4587
DEM 04/30/91

Luis V. Gutierrez
Alderman
121 N. LaSalle, Suite 207
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 744-6853
DEM 04/15/91

Miriam Santos
City Treasurer
206 City Hall
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 744-3356
DEM 03/91

Lombard

Laura Vasquez
Councilmember
296 W. 18th Street
Lombard, IL 60148
(312) 620-5700
* 04/30/93

School Board Members

Donna M. Santiago
West Chicago BOE
312 E. 4th Avenue
West Chicago, IL 60185
(312) 231-1670
11/30/91

INDIANA

Total Population:	5,490,000
Total Hispanic Population:	87,047
Total Puerto Rican Population:	12,683

Municipal Officials

East Chicago

Secundino Cruz
Councilman, 5th District
4525 Indianapolis Boulevard
East Chicago, IN 46312
(219) 391-8439
DEM 12/31/91

Joe de La Cruz
Councilman-at-Large
4230 Hidalgo Lane
East Chicago, IN 46312
(219) 391-8428
DEM 12/31/91

Gary

Wilfredo Sanchez
Councilman
401 Broadway, Suite 209
Gary, IN 46402
(219) 887-3282
DEM 12/31/91

Hammond

Pete Torres
Councilman, 2nd District
1320 Hoffman Street
Hammond, IN 46327
(219) 853-6474
DEM 12/30/91

Lake Station

Luis Gonzalez
Councilman, 4th District
2840 Arizona Street
Lake Station, IN 46405
(219) 962-3772
DEM 01/01/91

MASSACHUSETTS

Total Population:	5,737,000
Total Hispanic Population:	141,043
Total Puerto Rican Population:	76,450
Cities with 10,000 or more Puerto Ricans:	
Boston:	29,743
Springfield:	12,298

State Officials

Nelson Merced
State Representative
State House, Room 473G
Boston, MA 02133
(617) 722-2070
DEM 01/31/91

School Board Members

Doris Cruz
School Committee Member
Amherst SD
36 Western Lane
Amherst, MA 01002
(413) 536-4762
12/31/90

Betty Medina-Lichtenstein
School Commitee Member
Holyoke SD
31 Vernon Street
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 785-1251
01/06/90

MICHIGAN

Total Population:	9,262,000
Total Hispanic Population:	162,440
Total Puerto Rican Population:	12,425

Municipal Officials

Madison Heights

George W. Suarez
Mayor
300 W. 13 Mile Road
Madison Heights, MI 40071
(313) 588-1200, Ext. 202
DEM 11/12/91

NEW JERSEY

Total Population:	7,365,000
Total Hispanic Population:	491,883
Total Puerto Rican Population:	243,540
Cities with 10,000 or more Puerto Ricans:	
Camden:	14,799
Jersey City:	28,830
Newark:	39,732
Perth Amboy:	11,025
Passaic:	10,529
Paterson:	24,326

County Officials

Hudson County

Nidia Davila-Colon
Freeholder, Hudson County
Board of Chosen Freeholders
595 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306
(201) 659-7700
DEM 11/30/90

Municipal Officials

Camden

Jesus Torres
Camden City Councilman
1217 McArthur Drive
Camden, NJ 08104
(609) 795-7275
DEM 07/01/93

Englewood

Julio Varela
Councilmember
2-10 N. Vanbrunt Street
Englewood, NJ 07631
(201) 567-1274
GOP 12/31/90

Hoboken

Edwin Duroy
Councilmember
82 Grand Street
Hoboken, NJ 07030
(201) 656-9349
* 07/31/91

Jersey City

Efrain Rosario
Councilman-at-Large
City Hall
280 Grove Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302
(201) 547-5204
DEM 06/30/93

Jaime Vasquez
Councilman
City Hall
280 Grove Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302
(201) 547-6574
DEM 06/30/93

Mt. Holly

Jose F. Sosa
Mayor
8 Thorndike Avenue
Mt. Holly, NJ 08060
(609) 261-4293
GOP 07/01/90

Passaic

Efrain Cortez
Councilman
PO BOX 265
Passaic, NJ 07055
(201) 471-1370
DEM 05/31/91

Paterson

Maria Magda-O'Keefe
City Council
673 Market Street
Paterson, NJ 07503
(201) 684-3320
DEM 06/10/92

Perth Amboy

Pedro J. Jiménez
Councilmember
638 Kelly Avenue
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
(201) 826-0290
* 06/30/90

Vineland

José A. Laboy, Esq.
Councilman
717 Elmer Street
Vineland, NJ 08360
(609) 691-4811
GOP 06/30/92

Weehawken

Robert Sosa
Councilmember
400 Park Avenue
Weehawken, NJ 07087
(201) 319-6005
DEM 06/30/90

Woodbine

José Rodriguez
Councilmember
507 Jackson Avenue, Box 93
Woodbine, NJ 08270
(609) 861-2153
GOP 12/31/92

School Board Members

Jose E. Delgado, Jr.
Camden BOE
503 N. 36th Street
Camden, NJ 08110
(609) 962-5800
04/30/91

Jose M. Rodriguez
Camden BOE
PO Box 2806
Camden, NJ 08101
(609) 757-7374
04/30/91

Mario Mercado
President, Hoboken BOE
1115 Clinton Street
Hoboken, NJ 07030
(201) 420-2183
04/30/91

Felix Rivera
Hoboken BOE
1115 Clinton Street
Hoboken, NJ 07030
(201) 420-2183
04/30/91

Gustavo A. Acevedo, Jr.
Jackson SD
18 Bryant Drive
Jackson, NJ 08527
(201) 905-9370
04/30/90

Ivette Alfonso
Newark BOE
699 S. 18th Street
Newark, NJ 07103
(201) 877-3232
04/05/91

Pedro Cancel
Vice President, Passaic BOE
28 Van Winkle Avenue
Passaic, NJ 07055
(201) 777-7821
04/30/91

Mary Guzman
Passaic BOE
101 Passaic Avenue
Passaic, NJ 07055
(201) 470-5241
04/30/91

20

Juan Santana, Jr.
Paterson BOE
33 Church Street
Paterson, NJ 07503
(201) 977-4500
04/30/91

Greg Diaz, Jr.
Perth Amboy BOE
372 Fayette Street
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
(201) 643-4878
04/30/91

Milagros Villareal
Union City BOE
3912 Bergen Turnpike
Union City, NJ 07087
(201) 348-5887
04/04/92

Joaquin A. Martinez
Vineland BOE, Lieutenant
P.O.Box 244
Vineland, NJ 08360
(609) 794-3304
04/30/90

Jeanette Rodriguez
Woodbine BOE
716 De Santin Drive
Woodbine, NJ 08270
(609) 861-5837
04/30/91

NEW YORK

Total Population:	17,558,000
Total Hispanic Population:	1,659,300
Total Puerto Rican Population:	986,389
Cities with 10,000 or more Puerto Ricans:	
New York City:	860,552
Rochester:	13,430

Members of Congress

Robert Garcia
U.S. Congressman
890 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10454
(212) 538-5400
DEM 12/31/90

State Senators

Olga A. Mendez
Senator, 30th District
2130 3rd Avenue
New York, NY 10035
(212) 860-0893
(518) 455-3361
DEM 12/31/90

Efrain Gonzalez
Senator, 32nd District
Legislative Office Building, Room 617
Albany, NY 12247
(518) 455-3395
DEM 12/31/90

State Representatives

Angelo Del Toro
Assemblyman
2112 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10029
(212) 860-8405
DEM 12/31/90

Hector L. Diaz
Assemblyman
3045 Southern Boulevard
Suite 9
Bronx, NY 10459
(212) 893-0202
DEM 12/31/90

Israel Martinez
Assemblyman
2488 Grand Concourse #202
Bronx, NY 10458
(212) 295-1238
DEM 12/31/90

Jose E. Serrano
Assemblyman
384 E. 149th Street #608
Bronx, NY 10455
(212) 292-2901
DEM 12/31/90

County Officials

Bronx

Fernando Ferrer
Bronx Borough President
851 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10451
(212) 590-3557
DEM 12/31/93

Municipal Officials

Bronx

Rafael C. Colon
Councilmember
1826 Westchester Avenue
Bronx, NY 10472
(212) 822-4515
DEM 12/31/91

Jose Rivera
Councilmember
2488 Grand Concourse #334
Bronx, NY 10458
(212) 364-3700
DEM 12/31/91

Brooklyn

Victor L. Robles
Councilmember, 27th District
815 Broadway, Room 404
Brooklyn, NY 11206
(718) 963-3141
DEM 12/31/91

Rochester

Nancy Padilla
Councilwoman-at-Large
Rochester City Council
30 Church Street
Rochester, NY 14614
(716) 428-7538
DEM 12/31/93

Judicial/Law Enforcement

Irma Vidal Santaella
State Supreme Court Justice
100 Centre Street
Room 1614
New York, NY 10013
(212) 374-8306
DEM 12/31/97

John Carro
Associate Justice, Supreme Court
Appelate Division, First Department
27 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10010
(212) 340-0430
DEM 12/31/90

Gilbert Ramirez
State Supreme Court Justice
360 Adams Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
(718) 643-7090
DEM 12/31/03

School Board Members

Carmen Arroyo
Bronx Community SB #7
501 Courtlandt Avenue
Bronx, NY 10451
(212) 665-0600
06/30/92

Luis Perez
Bronx Community SB #7
530 East 146th Street
Bronx, NY 10455
(212) 665-0600
06/30/92

Gilberto Rivera
Bronx Community SB #7
501 Courtlandt Avenue
Bronx, NY 10451
(212) 665-0600
06/30/92

Martha V. Rodriguez
Bronx Community SB #7
501 Courtlandt Avenue
Bronx, NY 10451
(212) 665-0600
06/30/92

24

Ernest Muñoz
Bronx Community SB #8
1234 Spofford Avenue
Bronx, NY 10474
(212) 654-5959
06/30/92

Julia Rodriguez
Bronx Community SB #8
2015 Bruckner Boulevard
Bronx, NY 10472
(212) 829-7436
06/30/92

Edwin Cruz
Bronx Community SB #9
1001 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10452
(212) 698-0369
06/30/92

Nilda M. Muñoz
Bronx Community SB #9
1119 Beach Avenue
Bronx, NY 10472
(212) 328-1662
06/30/92

George Palermo
Bronx Community SB #9
1309 Washington Avenue # 5C
Bronx, NY 10456
(212) 992-5703
06/30/92

Carmelo Saez
Bronx Community SB #9
1377 Jerome Avenue
Bronx, NY 10452
(212) 681-5000
06/30/92

Richard Sanz Gonzalez
Bronx Community SB #10
277 Van Courtlandt East
Bronx, NY 10467
(212) 364-4123
06/30/92

Sandra Ramos-Alamo
Bronx Community SB #10
P.O. Box 958
Bronx, NY 10453
(212) 933-8370
6/30/92

Emily Sanchez
Bronx Community SB #11
13 B Broun Place
Bronx, NY 10475
(212) 379-1369
06/30/92

Lucy Cruz
Bronx Community SB #12
1346 Morrison Avenue
Bronx, NY 10472
(212) 328-2310
06/30/92

Raul Cruz
Bronx Community SB #12
1253 Commonwealth Avenue
Bronx, NY 10472
(212) 828-8988
06/30/92

Eugenia Irizarry
Bronx Community SB #12
1585 White Plains Road
Bronx, NY 10462
(212) 863-6925
06/30/92

Pablo Ortiz
Bronx Community SB #12
1314 Elder Avenue
Bronx, NY 10472
(212) 328-2326
06/30/92

Lydia E. Velez
Bronx Community SB #12
1449 Leland Avenue
Bronx, NY 10460
(212) 328-2326
06/30/92

Claribel Lozada
Brooklyn Community SB #14
214 South 3rd Street
Brooklyn, NY 11211
(718) 387-0404
06/30/92

Lillian L. Lopez
Brooklyn Community SB #15
82 Dwight Street
Brooklyn, NY 11231
(718) 330-9283
06/30/92

Maria R. Irizarry
Brooklyn Community SB #19
368 Lincoln Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11208
(718) 272-8033
06/30/92

Iris Pabon
Brooklyn Community SB #19
557 Pennsylvania Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11207
(718) 257-6900, Ext. 260
06/30/92

Douglas A. Blancero
Brooklyn Community SB #22
2518 Coney Island Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11223
(718) 627-5005
06/30/92

Alicia Ponce De Leon
Brooklyn Community SB #23
440 Watkins Street #4C
Brooklyn, NY 11212
(718) 495-0148
06/30/92

Maria Berrios
Brooklyn Community SB #32
240 Woodbine Street
Brooklyn, NY 11221
(718) 574-0232
06/30/92

George Gonzalez
Brooklyn Community SB #32
289 Central Avenue, Apt. 2D
Brooklyn, NY 11221
(718) 452-1659
06/30/92

Maria Quinonez
Brooklyn Community SB #32
1397 Gates Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11221
(718) 574-0232
06/30/92

Edmundo Roman
Brooklyn Community SB #32
1354 Bushwick Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11207
(718) 574-0232
06/30/92

Tito Velez
Brooklyn Community SB #32
141 Wilson Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11237
(718) 574-0232
06/30/92

Elizabeth Gonzalez
Manhattan Community SB #1
60 Baruch Drive, Apt. 11E
New York, NY 10002
(212) 473-1474
06/30/92

Raymond Torres, Jr.
Manhattan Community SB #1
65 Jefferson Street, Apt. 15C
New York, NY 10002
(212) 964-1774
06/30/92

Lillian Castro
Manhattan Community SB #3
540 Ft. Washington Avenue
New York, NY 10033
(212) 927-2239
06/30/92

Carlos Camacho
Manhattan Community SB #4
1952 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10029
(212) 369-5714
06/30/92

Celestino Concepcion
Manhattan Community SB #4
1978 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10029
(212) 860-5910
06/30/92

Evelyn Pacheco
Manhattan Community SB #4
2400 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10035
(212) 860-5910
06/30/92

Freddie Rodriguez
Manhattan Community SB #4
2080 First Avenue
New York, NY 10029
(212) 860-5910
06/30/92

28

Delia Ortiz
Manhattan Community SB #5
550 W. 125 Street, #1H
New York, NY 10027
(212) 865-5961
06/30/92

Rev. Ediberto Lopez
Manhattan Community SB #6
529 W. 217th Street
New York, NY 10034
(212) 928-1200
06/30/92

Mike Fernandez
Commissioner, Rochester BOE
192 Hillside Avenue
Rochester, NY 14610
(716) 724-6816
11/30/93

OHIO

Total Population:	10,798,000
Total Hispanic Population:	119,883
Total Puerto Rican Population:	32,442
Cities with 10,000 or more Puerto Ricans:	
Cleveland:	14,085

Municipal Officials

Lorain

Angel L. Arroyo
Councilmember
522 Broadway Avenue
Lorain, OH 44052
(216) 244-1616
DEM 12/31/90

Judicial/Law Enforcement

Jose A. Villanueva
Judge, Court of Common Pleas
1200 Ontario Street
Court Room 21C
Cleveland, OH 44113
(216) 443-8737
DEM 12/31/92

PENNSYLVANIA

Total Population:	11,864,000
Total Hispanic Population:	153,961
Total Puerto Rican Population:	91,802
Cities with 10,000 or more Puerto Ricans:	
Philadelphia:	46,990

State Officials

Ralph Acosta
State Representative
2527 N. Palethorp Street
Philadelphia, PA 19133
(215) 634-1660
DEM 11/30/90

Municipal Officials

Philadelphia

Angel L. Ortiz
Councilman-at-Large
City Hall, Room 590
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 686-3420
DEM 12/31/91

Judicial/Law Enforcement

Nelson A. Diaz
Judge, Court of Common Pleas
469 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 686-3762
DEM 01/01/92

School Board Members

Anibal "Kiki" Rosado
Bristol Borough SD
28 Lincoln Avenue
Bristol, PA 19007
(215) 785-1312
11/30/91

Roberto Torres
Director, Harrisburg School Board
2405 Belleview Road
Harrisburg, PA 17104
(717) 763-3972
12/31/91

Marcelino Colon, Jr.
Reading SD
800 Washington Street
Reading, PA 19601-3691
(215) 371-5665
12/31/89

Nitza Rosado
Reading School Board Director
1661 N. 10th Street
Reading, PA 19604
(215) 929-3533
11/30/93

Research Note: Puerto Rican Elected Officials in the United States

The survey conducted for this *Directory* identified 123 elected officials of Puerto Rican background in 11 states with Puerto Rican populations of 10,000 or more (California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania). NPRC was able to establish the pattern of political officeholding and gender characteristics for the total of elected officials, but the description of other characteristics is based on information provided by 80 respondents via questionnaire or telephone conversation.

TABLE 1

Puerto Rican Elected Officials By State, Level of Office, and Gender

		Level of Office						Gender	
State	**Total**	**F**	**S**	**C**	**M**	**J/LE**	**SB**	**M**	**F**
CA	1						1	1	
CT	14		2		6	2	4	10	4
FL	2				2				2
IL	8		2	1	4		1	5	3
IN	5				5			5	
MA	3		1				2	1	2
MI	1				1			1	
NJ	26			1	12		13	20	6
NY	54	1	6	1	4	3	39	31	23
OH	2				1	1		2	
PA	7		1		1	1	4	6	1
Totals	123	1	12	3	36	7	64	82	41

F = Federal, **S** = State, **C** = County, **M** = Municipal, **J/LE** = Judicial/Law Enforcement, **SB** = School Board

Seventy-four percent of all Puerto Ricans in the United States live in these states;[1] thus, it is reasonable to compare the level of representation there against the total number of elected officials in the country. Puerto Ricans are one percent of

1. 1980 census. See note in "Guide for Users" section, page v., regarding population statistics.

the total U.S. population but less than one-tenth of one percent of all elected public office holders in the 50 states. Puerto Ricans are 1.6 percent of the total population in the states mentioned above but, again, less than one-tenth of one percent of all elected officials.[2]

Compared with Other Hispanics, Puerto Ricans are still underrepresented. They are 21 percent of all Hispanics in the surveyed states but only 17 percent of all Hispanic elected officials. If only those states where Puerto Rican numbers are highest are considered the comparison becomes more favorable. In Connecticut Puerto Ricans are 71 percent of the Hispanic population but 99 percent of all Hispanic elected officials. In New York they are 59 percent of all Hispanics but 79 percent of all Hispanics elected to public office. In New Jersey, where Puerto Ricans are 50 percent of all Hispanics, they are 60 percent of Hispanic elected officials. Still, while they constitute 4.4 percent of the total population in those three states they are less than one-half of one percent of all public office holders.[3]

Those are the states with the largest individual shares of Puerto Rican elected officials, with New York having 54, New Jersey 26, and Connecticut 14 for 76 percent of the total. The rest of the states surveyed have less than 10 Puerto Rican elected officials each, with a high of eight in Illinois and a low of one each in California and Michigan.

The highest number of office holders can be found at the school board (64) and municipal (36) levels with 100 elected officials or 81 percent of the total. This correlates with the predominantly urban character of the Puerto Rican community. Further, and most importantly, their concentration at the school board level (52 percent) signals their underrepresentation in those spheres where more inclusive, and in all likelihood more substantive, policies are formulated.

At the federal level, Puerto Ricans are less than one-half of one percent of Congressional representatives. During the 1980s, the concentration of

2. According to the 1987 edition of *Popularly Elected Officials*, a Census Bureau publication, there are 504,404 publicly elected officials in the United States. In the states where Puerto Rican elected officials were identified, there are 206,972. For a breakdown of federal officials by state see *Congressional Yellowbook*, XV:1, Spring 1989, (Washington, D.C.: Monitor Publishing Co.).

3. The total number of elected officials in Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York is 45,677.

Hispanic residents in at least six congressional districts in Illinois, New Jersey, and New York has been conducive to the election of a Puerto Rican candidate.[4] This, however, has not happened.[5]

Eighty-two out of 123 Puerto Rican elected officials, or 67 percent, are male. Puerto Rican female representatives serve predominantly on school boards, with 30 of 41 female elected officials (or 73 percent) occupying positions at this level.

The fact that females constitute one-third of all Puerto Rican elected officials is significant in light of cultural stereotypes about the role of Hispanic women in the society. Yet the pattern of officeholding for women mimics the traditional division of power and assigned roles that women and men have had within the Hispanic family. It is interesting to note, however, that 34 of the 64 Puerto Rican school board representatives are males. This suggests that men continue to dominate even in issue areas, such as children and education, that traditionally have been reserved for women.

While it is certainly positive to see men involved in child-related issues, it would be even better to see, as a parallel development, more women in the higher rungs of the power hierarchy. Unfortunately, the extent to which the latter has happened is very limited.

Over half of the 80 respondents are between the ages of 30 and 50. Twenty-six are between 30 and 40 years of age, 26 between 40 and 50, two are under 30, 17 are over 50 and nine declined to indicate their age. This distribution is roughly comparable with the age characteristics of Hispanic elected officials in states with relatively small Puerto Rican populations. In California and Texas,

---

4. Harry P. Pachon, "The Puerto Rican Voter Potential in the United States," in *Strategies for Increasing Voter Participation in Puerto Rican Communities in the Continental United States*, (Washington, D.C.: National Puerto Rican Coalition, Inc., 1983) p. 20.

5. The situation is compounded by Congressman Robert Garcia's performance and the outcome of his trial. See Howard Kurtz and Laurie Goodstein, "Rep. Garcia, Wife Convicted," *Washington Post*, October 21, 1989, p. A1. Also, of all levels of government in the United States, the federal is the most difficult to penetrate. In terms of money alone the hurdles are staggering. In 1988, for example, the average winner of a Senate seat spent $4 million to run his campaign; in the House the average winner spent as much as $360,000. See "Final Exam Time," *Washington Post* editorial, December 5, 1989, p. A24.

for example, the median age of Hispanic elected officials is 47 and 45 years respectively.[6]

Sixty-two of 80 respondents, or 78 percent, reported being members of the Democratic Party. Five are Republicans, three are Independents and 10 chose not to declare their political affiliation.

Puerto Rican elected officials have a diverse professional background. Four respondents identified themselves as teachers, 10 as lawyers, 11 as businesspeople, and 45 as Other. Only 10 respondents declined to specify their occupational status.

The Other category included a wide range of occupations: housewives, public relations specialists, agency administrators, and urban planners. As a group, Puerto Rican elected officials are in contrast with more homogeneous representative bodies such as Congress where white, male lawyers predominate. Whether a diverse group of Puerto Ricans will come to occupy higher levels of office in increasing numbers remains to be seen.

Fifty-four respondents of 80 are currently serving their first term. One-third of these are newly elected members of school boards in New York City. That over 40 percent of incumbents are newly elected is a mixed blessing. They should be able to inject fresh energy and new ideas into their task. On the other hand, their efforts are less likely to yield short-term results in view of the time they will have to spend learning the ropes. If they succeed beyond their first term, their experience could be an asset for the community and could serve to encourage others to vie for additional positions in future elections.

The issue of political representation is not merely quantitative, but in light of what the current numbers are, Puerto Ricans must focus their political empowerment efforts on this aspect of the issue.

In their study of the political mobilization of Blacks and Hispanics in ten cities in Northern California, Browning, Marshall, and Tabb conclude that to achieve political equality excluded groups must "get elected, they must become part of a coalition, and the coalition must be dominant—able to shape the policies of city government."[7] In

6. Harry P. Pachon, "An Overview of Hispanic Elected Officials in 1988," in NALEO Education Fund, *1988 National Roster of Hispanic Elected Officials*, p. vii.

7. Rufus P. Browning, Dale Rogers Marshall, David H. Tabb, *Protest is not Enough, The Struggle of Blacks and Hispanics for Equality in Urban Politics* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1986), p. 241.

the case of Puerto Ricans, the second step becomes first and foremost, for except in areas of significant concentration, without coalitions it is unlikely that they can succeed in getting elected.

Coalition building is a difficult and often frustrating enterprise. For Puerto Ricans these alliances raise a crucial dilemma: the need they have of asserting unique claims and highlighting important specificities can be overshadowed by linkages that require potentially debilitating compromises. Yet again, it is unlikely that Puerto Ricans can advance their goals outside of them.

While any strategy to increase the level of Puerto Rican political representation must have coalition building as its centerpiece, voter registration and education, research, and networking also are necessary. Two additional ingredients, however, are indispensable as well.

First, Puerto Ricans must develop the economic resources and political acumen that will allow them to run for public office successfully and in larger numbers. This is one way in which those who have made it within the Puerto Rican community can assist those who have been left behind. Second, they must learn to manage conflict in ways conducive to cooperation rather than to exacerbated conflict.[8] Conflict is inevitable and Puerto Ricans suffer from its effects no more than other groups. Yet Puerto Ricans must be especially sensitive to those issues that tend to drive them apart if only to be able to minimize their influence and set the tone for collaboration. In this regard, the words of Woodrow Wilson seem especially pertinent. In *Congressional Government* he wrote:

> . . . everyone knows that nothing can be accomplished in politics by mere disagreement. The only privilege such recalcitrants gain is the privilege of disagreement; they are forever shut out from the privilege of confidential cooperation. They have chosen the helplessness of a faction.[9]

---

8. Clearly, this is not all that is needed. Puerto Ricans also must monitor reapportionment and redistricting processes and electoral procedures must be made conducive to participation. The emphasis here, though, is on those things that must be done among themselves as a community.

9. Excerpted in Pietro S. Nivola and David H. Rosenbloom, *Classic Readings in American Politics*, (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1986) p. 304

Methodology

This survey identified the proportion of Hispanic elected officials in the United States that is of Puerto Rican background. To do so, NPRC first targeted those states with 10,000 or more Puerto Ricans: California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Almost 80 percent of all Puerto Ricans in the United States live in those states.

NPRC then initiated a preliminary verification process through its organizational members and contacts in those states. Using the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials' roster of Hispanic elected officials, the contacts were asked to identify those officials of known Puerto Rican background and to add names as appropriate. State directories and *Who's Who's in American Politics*, particularly for Virgina and Hawaii, also were consulted.

Telephone calls were made to follow up on this request and obtain feedback and additional references. As a result, 352 individuals in the states selected were targeted. Questionnaires were sent and telephone calls were made to each person to verify receipt, request prompt return, and encourage referrals of known Puerto Ricans not included in our sample.

A second round of calls took place to follow up on nonrespondents. In a number of cases, subgroup verification and compilation of the requested data took place over the telephone. Overall, the verification process occurred via returned questionnaires; telephone confirmation with the elected official; and secondary sources such as staffers, associates and colleagues of nonrespondents, access to correspondence, and publications.

The verification process yielded Puerto Rican elected officials in only 11 of 15 states originally selected. Eighty of 123 officials identified as Puerto Rican responded by returning the survey form or by providing the information requested in the questionnaire over the telephone.

The final step consisted of sending the draft list of elected officials to a selected group of researchers, community leaders, and representatives of voter registration and political action groups for an accuracy check.

NPRC has tried to be as accurate as possible but mistakes still may occur. The assistance of users

of this *Directory* is requested to correct errors and omissions. A portion of the "Guide for Users" section has been designed for this purpose.

References

City of New York. *The Green Book, 1989-1990.*

Hispanic Policy Development Project, Inc., *The Hispanic Almanac 1984* (Washington, D.C.: Hispanic Policy Development Project).

National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. *1988 National Roster of Hispanic Elected Officials* (Washington, D.C.: NALEO Education Fund).

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. *Popularly Elected Officials in 1987.*

———*Statistical Abstract of the U.S., 1989.* 109th Edition.

———*Statistical Abstract Supplement, County and City Data Book, 1988.*

U.S. Government Printing Office. *States with Appointed School Boards by Appointed Characteristics,* 1983.

Who's Who in American Politics

Notes

NPRC Board of Directors

Officers

Chairperson

Amalia V. Betanzos
Wildcat Service Corporation
New York, New York

Vice Chairperson

Hipolito (Paul) Roldan
Hispanic Housing Development Corporation
Chicago, Illinois

Treasurer

Carlos Pineiro
New York, New York

Secretary

Maria E. Girone
Puerto Rican Family Institute
New York, New York

NPRC President

Louis Nuñez
Rockville, Maryland

Organizational Members

Carmen Bolden
Congreso de Latinos Unidos
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Ruben Franco, Esq.
Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund
New York, New York

Domingo Garcia
Ibero American Action League
Rochester, New York

Clara Garcia
Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion
Boston, Massachusetts

Jose Luis Gonzalez
El Circulo de Puerto Rico
Silver Spring, Maryland

Dr. Janice Petrovich
Aspira Association
Washington, D.C.

Dr. Pedro Jose Rivera
InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico
Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico

Ramon Rivera
La Casa de Don Pedro
Newark, New Jersey

Lydia Valencia
Puerto Rican Congress of New Jersey
Trenton, New Jersey

Hector Velazquez
National Puerto Rican Forum
New York, New York

Elsa Nuñez-Wormack
Hispanic Association of Higher Education of New Jersey
Newark, New Jersey

Individual Members

Anna Carbonell
Staten Island, New York

Most Rev. Alvaro Corrada del Rio, S.J.
Silver Spring, Maryland

Miguel A. Garcia, Jr.
Bronx, New York

Dr. Olga Jimenez-Wagenheim
Maplewood, New Jersey

Frank Marin
Brooklyn, New York

Martin Martinez
Rahway, New Jersey

Dr. Eric Muñoz
Newark, New Jersey

Magdalena Torres
Lynbrook, New York

José J. Villamil
San Juan, Puerto Rico

National Puerto Rican Coalition, Inc.
1700 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 223-3915